

Forest Service, USDA

comment. However, as soon as practicable after issuance, the interim Manual directive will be made available for public review and comment as described in §216.6. In making the Manual directive available, the responsible official shall state why the interim directive was issued prior to obtaining public comments.

§216.8 Availability of proposed Manual directives identified for formal public review.

As a minimum, review copies of proposed Manual directives determined to be of substantial public interest or expected controversy shall be available in the Forest Supervisor's Office and District Rangers' Offices when National Forest proposals are involved; in the Regional Office and Forest Supervisors' Offices when regional proposals are involved; and in Regional Offices and National Headquarters when national proposals are involved. When Manual directives involve Forest Service Research or State and Private Forestry programs, review copies shall be available at comparable administrative offices.

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Subpart A—National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301; and Secs. 6 and 15, 90 Stat. 2949, 2952, 2958 (16 U.S.C. 1604, 1613).

SOURCE: 65 FR 67568, Nov. 9, 2000, unless otherwise noted.

PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

§219.1 Purpose.

- (a) Land and resource management planning guides how the Forest Service

will fulfill its stewardship of the natural resources of the National Forest System to fulfill the designated purposes of the national forests and grasslands and honor their unique place in American life. The regulations in this subpart set forth a process for amending and revising land and resource management plans, hereafter referred to as plans, for the National Forest System and for monitoring the results of plan implementation under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, 16 U.S.C. 1600 *et seq.* The regulations in this subpart also guide the selection and implementation of site-specific actions. The principal authorities governing the development and the management of the National Forest System include: the Organic Administration Act of 1897, as amended (16 U.S.C. 473 *et seq.*); the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 528 *et seq.*); the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1121 *et seq.*); the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*); the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 *et seq.*); and the Clean Water Act of 1948, as amended by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1977 and the Water Quality Act of 1987 and other laws (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*, 1323 *et seq.*).

(b) The National Forest System constitutes an extraordinary national legacy created by people of vision and preserved for future generations by diligent and far-sighted public servants and citizens. These are the peoples' lands, emblems of the nation's democratic traditions.

(1) The national forests and grasslands provide a wide variety of uses, values, products, and services that are important to many people, including outdoor recreation, forage, timber, wildlife and fish, biological diversity, productive soils, clean air and water, and minerals. They also afford intangible benefits such as beauty, inspiration, and wonder.

(2) To assure the continuation of this array of benefits this regulation affirms sustainability as the overall goal for stewardship of the natural resources of each national forest and grassland consistent with the laws that guide management of these lands.

(3) Sustainability, composed of interdependent ecological, social, and economic elements, embodies the principles of multiple-use and sustained-yield without impairment to the productivity of the land. Sustainability means meeting needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Planning contributes to social and economic sustainability without compromising the basic composition, structure, and functioning of ecological systems. The progress toward achievement of sustainability is assessed through monitoring and evaluation.

§219.2 Principles.

The planning regulations in this subpart are based on the following principles:

(a) The first priority for planning to guide management of the National Forest System is to maintain or restore ecological sustainability of national forests and grasslands to provide for a wide variety of uses, values, products, and services. The benefits sought from these lands depend upon long-term ecological sustainability. Considering increased human uses, it is essential that uses of today do not impair the functioning of ecological processes and the ability of these natural resources to contribute to sustainability in the future.

(1) Planning provides the guidance for maintaining or restoring the diversity of plant and animal communities and the productive capacity of ecological systems, the core elements of ecological sustainability.

(2) Planning is based on science and other knowledge, including the use of scientifically based strategies for sustainability and benefits from independent scientific peer review.

(3) Planning is based on the temporal and spatial scales necessary for sustainability.